

News Release
For Immediate Release

Severe weather declaration developments and other updates

INDIANAPOLIS (June 16, 2008) – President George W. Bush today has approved two more Indiana counties – Decatur and Wayne – for individual federal assistance. That brings the total number of approved Indiana counties to 28. Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

Here are other miscellaneous developments today related to recent severe Indiana storms:

State Disaster Assistance Centers

The state will open a one-stop assistance location in Spencer on Tuesday morning at the Spencer Elementary School, 151 Hillside Avenue. As with the other locations in Columbus, Franklin, Indianapolis and Martinsville, state employees will be there to assist victims with questions about housing, unemployment insurance and social services. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Red Cross officials also are located at most of these sites.

Applications for FEMA assistance are made by telephone or computer and can be done as soon as a county is declared for individual assistance. It is not necessary for a storm victim to visit an office to complete an application. The applications may be found at <http://www.fema.gov/> or the state's emergency assistance Web site at www.emergency.in.gov. The toll free number is 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired.

Farmers also are reminded that in addition to U.S. Department of Agriculture help for farm losses, those with damage to their residences also should file FEMA applications.

To date, counties approved for assistance are Adams, Bartholomew, Brown, Clay, Daviess, Dearborn, Greene, Hamilton, Hancock, Henry, Jackson, Jennings, Johnson, Knox, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, Owen, Parke, Putnam, Randolph, Rush, Shelby, Sullivan, Vermillion and Vigo counties. Decatur and Wayne have just been added today.

Leave for state employees affected by severe weather

Governor Mitch Daniels signed Executive Order 08-13 today to grant paid leave to state employees whose homes were severely damaged or destroyed by storms. Employees who qualify may receive up to 15 days of paid leave which must be used by July 6, 2008. The governor took the same action following the tornado that struck the Evansville area in 2005.

A copy of the executive order may be found at this link:

http://www.in.gov/gov/files/EO_08_13.pdf

Public health

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) provided more information today about the public health emergency it has declared for Indiana. The declaration gives health care providers greater flexibility to meet emergency health needs. Here is a link to the HHS news release with further explanation:

www.hhs.gov/

The state Department of Health (ISDH) warned Hoosiers about actions they should take to protect themselves from floodwaters, including keeping children and pets out of affected areas, wearing rubber boots, gloves and goggles during cleanup, and having onsite waste-water systems professionally inspected and serviced if damage is suspected. More information is available at the ISDH Web page:

www.in.gov/isdh/

Bureau of Motor Vehicles

The Bureau of Motor Vehicles is joining with the Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives to accept donations of non-perishable food items, diapers and other items at its 140 branches statewide. Items will be distributed by local relief agencies to storm victims. More information is available at:

www.in.gov/bmv/

Help for displaced pets

United Animal Nations, a nonprofit organization located in Sacramento, California is offering financial assistance to help Indiana severe weather victims care for their pets. The organization offers up to \$500 to help with expenses such as veterinary care, transportation or temporary boarding for those whose homes are destroyed or damaged.

Applications can be made online. Here is a link to the organization's Web site:

<http://www.uan.org/>

The state has no connection or affiliation with this organization. We are passing the information on for those who may need help.

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